

## REMARKS

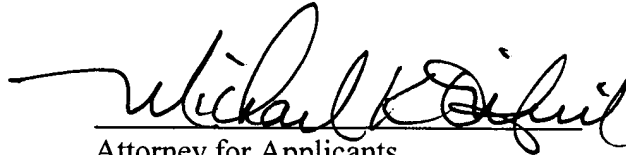
This Preliminary Amendment accompanies a Request for Continued Examination of this application, which has been allowed. Claims 37 to 52 are in the application, of which Claims 37 and 52 are independent.

Claim 37 has been amended so as to describe the holding portions and notch portions as “alternately provided in a circumferential direction of said tubular portion”. This change is not believed to affect allowability, and allowance of Claims 37 to 52 is therefore respectfully requested.

Turning to a formal matter involving drawings, it is noted that the PTO has not yet indicated its approval for the substitute drawing sheets filed on September 11, 2003. Approval of these drawing sheets, which comprise modifications to Figures 21 and 22, is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,  
California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to  
our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael K. O'Neill", written over a horizontal line.

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